Jason Chesser

2-12-2012

Web 2.0 Essay

Web 2.0 is a newer version of Web 1.0. Web 1.0 focused on just reading; you could only “read” things on the Internet. Now we can “read and write” on the Internet. The focus is on the second generation, it is geared for a new way of networking. This includes sharing, working together, organizing and I think encouraging others to participate. Basically it allows us as users of the Internet to utilize Web 2.0 while on the Internet. In the older days one would need to understand HTML language and only use one computer to create a photo gallery. With the help of Web 2.0 and it's tools we can do so much more.

We can use Web 2.0 to help with many different areas. It is a basically, as I understand it, a resource to share, find tools, find websites and open our minds to creative ways to be creative and learn. Tim O'Reilly the name creator of Web 2.0 described it as a “platform” that can deliver software, have multiple sources and to network. There are 4 specific areas of Web 2.0: presence (the ability to be on a network and participate), modification (the ability to change things), user-generated content (users get to control their own websites, wikis, etc), and social participation (users can invite friends and others to view content). Anywhere, anytime there is Internet access anyone can view and use tools to help them, especially teachers.

One job of a teacher is to improve all the time and utilize resources that can help them become a better teacher. One way to become a better teacher is through Web 2.0. There are so many tools that extend teacher performance and the result of that is an extended learning for students. By utilizing these tools from a shared network of Web 2.0 a teacher can find creative websites that help with learning. A teacher can find a tool or content that focuses on may things like presentations, photography, collaboration, video, audio, social networking and many others as well. Every teacher should know, understand and utilize Web 2.0 to further their teaching ability and extend the learning of their students.

As a future teacher I took a look at some Web 2.0 tools and was overwhelmed with the organization and amount of resources their were. I chose five tools that stood out to me but there are so many more that could be better for another teacher or fit the needs of a class better. The first is a writing tool: [tikatok.com](http://tikatok.com). This tool lets a child or student create a story online and save it in their own account. You can share it or keep it private and create images and write your own words. The second is a presentation tool: [prezentit.com](http://prezentit.com). This tool allows one to create a presentation with others at the

same time. So if there is a group project they can all work on it together on separate computers. The third is a resource tool: [snagfilms.com](http://snagfilms.com). This website is focused on documentary videos on many subjects. Next is a mapping/resource tool: [mapskip.com](http://mapskip.com). This tool is very neat and lets you explore the world for stories and interesting facts. Last one is a drawing tool: [sketchcast.com](http://sketchcast.com). Students can draw whatever they want and save all their work on their own site or portfolio, on line.

Now that I have picked 5 tools that stood out to me while exploring Web 2.0 tools I will briefly see how a teacher can utilize them. The writing tool I used can be utilized to promote creative writing. If a student can create their won book on line it could encourage them to write more. Motivation is key to education and this tool should help with that. It can also promote parent involvement since it is Web 2.0 all you need is Internet access to view a child's on line story. Scan in their own drawing or draw with a new Web 2.0 tool to create images for the story. Motivation, creativity, writing, parent involvement, technology improvement and fun; this is a great tool!

If a teacher has a group project as an assignment the teacher can use the presentation tool to bring a group together on line...at the same time! Say a group of four is working on a presentation and wants to show a member of their group what they got they can see with this tool immediately. No need to save it first, plug it in to another computer to view it; it's all on line together with this tool. This encourages students to work together and get more creative while learning about technology. Maybe a teacher wants to show a film but many are lacking the facts and realism. The resource tool I found will allow a teacher to show documentaries on a subject to create a visual learning tool that is real and educational.

The last two tools I found were also very neat for teachers. The mapping tool can work for many areas of many themes. This to can be used to find stories and facts from all around the world. You can use a smart board and travel the world and explore it's stories. Wherever there is a hand you can click on it and see videos, stories and information about the specific site. The last tool was mentioned earlier the drawing tool. A student can combine technology and their own creativity to draw on line. They can save all their work on line in their own portfolio or website. A teacher can use this tool for many visual activities.

In conclusion of Web 2.0 and it's tools, I love it! This opened my mind to numerous ideas that can be utilized by me in the future as a teacher. The possibilities don't seem to end when it comes to sharing ideas and resources. These Web 2.0 tools were organized, neat, easy to use and fun to explore. Every teacher must utilize this and be apart of the Web 2.0 world. A world where everyone can network, share, collaborate, learn and educate better than ever! Teachers, students, families and administrators will love it!